T-P 12-11-68

CLEAVER HUNT JOINED BY FBI

Warrant Hints Panther Left California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal fugitive warrant issued Tuesday for Eldridge Cleaver officially brought the FBI into the search for the missing Black Panther leader.

The Panther minister of information disappeared from the Bay Area Nov. 25, two days before he was to surrender for return to state prison as a parole violator.

There have been rumors he has fled to Cuba, Canada, Sweden or Africa.

WIFE TAKES $33,000

An FBI affidavit seeking the warrant said Cleaver's wife, Kathleen, flew to New York Sunday with $33,000 she had withdrawn earlier from his San Francisco bank account.

FBI agent Fred Ligarde said "It appears she has transported funds which are the fugitive's property for delivery and probable use outside the state."

The affidavit said Cleaver told a rally in Brooklyn, N.Y., last Oct. 13 he would not go back to prison but "would depend on the Black Panther Party and the black community to hide him out."

U.S. Commissioner Richard Goldsmith set Cleaver's bail on the unlawful flight charge at $100,000.

ON $50,000 BAIL

The 33-year-old author of "Soul On Ice" is free in $50,000 bail on charges of intent to murder and assault with a deadly weapon stemming from a shootout last April between Black Panthers and Oakland police. The bail will be forfeited if Cleaver fails to appear in an Oakland court Dec. 23 for the setting of his trial.

Cleaver was paroled in 1966 after serving nine years of a 13-year sentence for Los Angeles convictions of assault with intent to commit murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

After the Oakland shootout, his parole was revoked and he was returned to prison. Two months later, a Solano County Superior Court judge ordered his release on grounds he was being held solely for his political views.

The state District Court of Appeal overturned the ruling Sept. 27 and ordered Cleaver returned to prison. Appeals to the California Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall failed.